

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-11 and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3 and 12 have been canceled. Claim 20 has been amended. Claims 13-19 have been withdrawn.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1 and 4-11 have been allowed.

Claim 20 was rejected for obviousness over Woods (US 2002/0006535) in view of Haltiner (US 2003/0235733) because, in the Examiner's view, with which applicant disagrees, it is inherent that the amount of air that is added to the anode gas is sufficient for oxidation of the combustible components since the anode exhaust gas and the cathode exhaust gas are combusted inside the combustor.

Although applicant believes that claim 20, as previously worded, patentably distinguishes over Woods and Haltiner, claim 20 has been amended herewith by further reciting therein that the air being added to the anode gas is ambient air, a limitation that also appears in independent claims 1 and 9, which have been allowed for the reasons set forth under the "Allowable Subject Matter" subheading in the above-referenced Office Action.

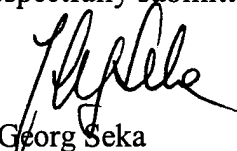
Thus, independent claim 20, amended herein, like claims 1 and 4-11, is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a formal notification to that effect at an early date is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 273-4730 (direct dial).

Respectfully submitted,



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